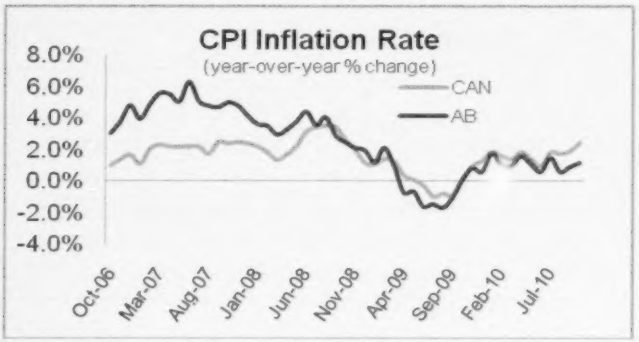
Consumer Price Index

CPI up slightly…

Alberta's year-over-year CPI inflation rate increased to 1.2% in October from 0.9% in September. The increase was due largely to energy prices, which were 5.6% higher than a year earlier. Gasoline and natural gas prices went up 4.5% and 11.1%, respectively, on a year-over-year basis. Excluding energy, prices were up just 0.7% from October 2009, suggesting that inflationary pressures remain subdued in Alberta.

Nationally, inflation was up 2.4% in October from the same month of 2009, which was the largest increase since October 2008. Energy prices, which were up 9.1% from October 2009, were a main contributor to the increases. Excluding energy, Canadian CPI advanced 1.9% from a year go.



Retail Sales

Sales up for fourth consecutive month…

The value of retail sales in Alberta increased by 0.9% in September to just over $5.0 billion (seasonally adjusted). Sales have been gradually increasing in each of the last four month. September's retail sales were mainly driven by sales in automotive parts, accessories and tire stores (9.7%) and sports goods, hobby, book and music stores (8.5%). Nationally, retail sales increased by 0.6% to $36.4 billion in September.

Average Weekly Earnings

Wages retreat in western Canada for September…

After a strong growth of 1.4% in August, average weekly earnings in Alberta decreased by 0.2% in September (seasonally adjusted). The decline occurred mostly in the service sectors, particularly in information and cultural industry (-10.0%) and arts, entertainment and recreation industry (-8.5%). Nonetheless, wages in management of companies and real estate increased 4.9% and 3.8%, respectively. The other western provinces, British Columbia (-0.5%), Saskatchewan (-1.1%), and Manitoba (-0.5%), all had negative growth in average weekly earnings. On a year-over-year basis, average weekly earnings in Alberta went up 4.7% in September, exceeding the Canadian average (4.5%) for the seventh consecutive month. Alberta's year-to-date average of $988.70 remains the highest in Canada.

↑	**Canadian Dollar (US¢/C$)**	
	November 26, 2010	98.54
	November 19, 2010	97.96
	2010-11 YTD	97.21
↑	**WTI Oil US$/bbl**	
	November 26, 2010	$ 83.76
	November 18, 2010	$ 81.85
	2010-11 YTD	$ 78.54
↑	**Nymex Natural Gas C$/MMBtu***	
	Near-month Contract	
	November 26, 2010	$4.51
	November 19, 2010	$4.20

*Estimate based on Nymex Futures Market Price

Farm Cash Receipts

Alberta farmers continue to suffer from lower prices…

Farm cash receipts for Alberta farmers declined at a rate of 7.1% during the first nine months of 2010 compared to the same period 2009. The decrease was primarily due to lower prices and marketings for major grains, as well as to lower oilseed prices. Crop receipts declined 10.0% while receipts from livestock and livestock products went up 11.9% in the third quarter 2010 compared to the same period 2009.

US Economy

US growth revised up to 2.5% and corporate profits at record high…

US real GDP growth in the third quarter of 2010 was revised up to 2.5% (annualized) in November, from the advance estimate of 2.0% in October. The increase in real GDP in the third quarter primarily reflected positive revisions to personal consumption expenditures (+1.97%), gross private domestic investment (+1.51%) and government consumption expenditures and gross investment (+0.81%). On the negative side, net exports of goods and services were revised downward (-1.76%) in the third quarter. Corporate profits set a record high in the third quarter.

Current Economic Indicators

Population	2008	2009	2010Ytd	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Population1 (000's) (level)	3,591	3,671	3,721	--	--	3,721	--	--	--
% change	2.2	2.2	1.4	--	--	1.4	--	--	--
Net Interprovincial Migraton1 (level)	15,317	13,184	-2,183	--	--	2,820	--	--	--
Net International Migration1 (level)	15,641	16,835	21,533	--	--	8,035	--	--	--
Net Non-permanent Residents1 (level)	18,611	19,162	-77	--	--	-753	--	--	--
Labour Market									
Employment (000's)	2,013	1,988	1,994	1,994	2,000	2,009	2,004	2,004	2,021
% change	2.8	-1.3	0.2	0.3	0.6	1.1	1.1	0.8	2.5
Unemployment Rate (%)	3.6	6.6	6.7	6.6	6.7	6.3	6.5	6.2	6.0
Participation Rate (%)	74.7	74.3	73.1	73.2	73.3	73.1	73.0	72.7	73.1
Average Weekly Earnings ($) NEW!	923.21	950.13	988.70	985.03	994.21	985.81	999.86	997.40	--
% change	6.0	2.9	4.2	4.4	4.2	4.7	7.0	4.7	--
Price Indices									
Consumer Price Index NEW!	3.2	-0.1	1.1	1.1	0.6	1.5	0.6	0.9	1.2
Excluding food and energy	2.1	1.4	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.2	0.5
Non-Res. Const. Cost Index2 (quarterly)	13.2	-9.8	-0.9	--	--	1.8	--	--	--
Farm Product Price Index	12.9	-10.6	-10.8	-8.9	-9.4	-7.0	-6.4	--	--
Crops	30.1	-18.9	-23.7	-26.1	-25.3	-24.1	-24.1	--	--
Livestock	1.9	-2.8	-0.1	3.4	3.8	7.2	8.1	--	--
Household Sector									
Housing Starts (SAAR, 000's)	29.2	20.0	27.9	29.6	26.8	29.3	23.5	27.1	25.2
% change	-39.6	-31.6	52.8	107.0	32.0	51.0	13.5	10.2	-15.7
New Housing Price Index	0.7	-9.0	0.4	1.6	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.4	--
Edmonton	1.0	-11.2	-1.3	-0.1	0.6	0.2	0.5	0.7	--
Calgary	0.6	-6.7	2.0	3.1	3.2	2.7	2.4	2.1	--
MLS Average Resale Prices ($ 000's)	351.4	340.5	352.4	355.5	345.4	352.2	347.2	360.4	352.9
% change	-1.5	-3.1	4.1	7.1	4.0	3.1	-0.5	0.4	-2
Edmonton	330.8	319.1	326.6	317.9	303.9	323.2	325.7	333.8	337.5
% change	-2.0	-3.5	3.0	4.4	2.1	1.5	2.6	-0.7	-0.6
Calgary	401.1	384.3	400.1	411.5	403.8	402.7	392.1	413.6	396.2
% change	-2.9	-4.2	4.5	9.2	5.8	5.5	-0.8	1.6	-1.5
Retail Sales3 NEW!	0.2	-8.3	5.0	2.1	3.8	4.5	5.1	6.6	--
New Motor Vehicle Sales	-7.3	-21.7	10.6	4.7	13.2	10.2	14.7	13.8	--
Consumer Bankruptcies	6,066	9,986	5,532	672	778	626	615	--	--
% change	27.2	64.6	-18.8	-20.7	-23.8	-28.2	-30.3	--	--
Business Sector									
Rigs Drilling	236	128	194	56	118	199	222	177	260
% change	-2.1	-45.6	67.0	76.4	99.0	135.2	130.3	59.3	101.4
Goods Exports (customs based)	35.0	-36.3	17.0	47.0	15.1	8.7	13.7	--	--
Energy	43.2	-40.1	26.5	77.5	20.6	8.8	15.7	--	--
Agriculture	31.8	-10.2	-13.9	-5.0	-9.0	-3.4	-8.4	--	--
Total Farm Cash Receipts (quarterly) NEW!	17.3	-7.5	-7.1	--	--	-15.6	--	--	2.6
Manufacturing Shipments	6.9	-23.7	9.7	13.7	11.0	15.1	16.8	17.5	--
Wholesale Trade4	9.5	-15.9	7.3	7.5	8.4	12.5	20.8	21.0	--
Building Permits	-16.5	-14.2	16.2	-11.8	32.5	10.1	3.5	-10.7	--
Residential	-31.5	-11.8	42.9	90.9	53.0	19.4	-12.1	-19.6	--
Non-residential	3.7	-16.3	-9.3	-57.7	14.4	-3.0	39.2	7.2	--
Business Bankruptcies	447	405	257	35	23	27	30	--	--
% change	-0.4	-9.4	-5.9	2.9	-30.3	-22.9	-9.1	--	--

Government of Alberta ■
Finance and Enterprise

Alberta ■

* YTD – year-to-date represents the change since the beginning of the year compared to the same period in the previous year.

[1] Quarterly; annual numbers are presented on a census year basis (July 1 - June 30).

[2] Average of Calgary and Edmonton

[3] The Retail Sales series was revised on April 23, 2010 and is no longer comparable with numbers in previous Bulletins.

[4] The Wholesale Trade series was revised on April 21, 2010 and is no longer comparable with numbers in previous Bulletins.

Sources: All data is from Statistics Canada except Housing Starts (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation), MLS Average Resale Prices (Canadian Real Estate Association), Rigs Drilling (Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors) and Bankruptcies (Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy Canada).

Current Economic Indicators by Province